JDW: Changing Times? 1/13/76

This has been a good day with all sorts of bad things happening to leave me tight from tension on the inside and from clothing too small on the outside. So, an update on what seems promising. I'll use it as a way to try and unwind while informing you and sipping slowly. And then I'll have to see what clothes I have that I can get into. Lil actually went to the basement and got out and up my pre- World War II stuff that, much wight as I've put on, I may have to wear. The one advantage of the tensions is that I cannot have consumed 500 non-liquid calories.

Metromedia's New York station is commomorating King's birthday day after tomorrow with a special. I do not know if it will be fed to their other stationa. People there know me from 10 years ago. So a new personx phoned me to ask me to be on the show. I tried to interest her in footage they have so I could avoid it. Didn't work and I feared their using Bud instead. Then I thought that JL is in NYC, a nd I gace her a build-up and the numbers of people who might know where he is. Then I called one, who could return the call on his company's WATS line. We got her and Jim together last night. It may come out of legal work he was to have done for me, but she had him for several hours and just a few minutes ago phoned to go over tomorrow and me with me and told me how great she found him. So, it worked well and they are turned on up to the executive level for the future. They want to get together with me to go farthur. Three people have already said it.

But I told them I would not drive to Washington and asked them to come here, explaining why. When they offered to send for me I could hardly say no so I asked for the first filming. I've got some new stuff for them, never used, and new not known and it will not kill any future uses.

This fits perfectly with my new project. As a promo and as promise of ancillary use.

Meanwhile, I'm working with this Newsday reporter. My presumption from their ordering 3 extra Frame-Ups is ~~xxx~~ correct: I turned him on and he turned them on and they have turned an investigative team loose. My contact, now a friend, is to make a deal with me. No trouble there. He is going to Memphis for something I have set up for him already, the story of the FBI penetration of the Invaders, the young black kids who created the violence. He is to spend part of tomorrow with me. Arranged now for him to bring me home. We can work while he drives and I keep my legs up. He doesn't know it yet but also while I do some shopping I couldn't do today, like fresher anti-embolism socks.

I suggested to him that is he is going to be in Memphis until Friday and he wants to go over what he picks up with me he can meet me at ~~xxx~~ Nashville and we can fly to New York together. All set.

He knows I plan a new, quickie book, I've asked him if he'll edit, with the idea in mind that in doing it he can plan and perhaps even do the serialization of the Newsday syndicate goes for it. He's agreed, so I have to get the agreement of the backer, with whom I'll stay in NYC. I'm to retain all but the rights they use and the right to use what they get from what I've set up.

So, subject to what I can do I think the situation is about as good as one could expect. Much better than could be expected after the NYTimes ax job and the CBS dishonesties I did, I think, cut to the minimum with my press conference.

If the project goes forward, and I should know over the weekend, there will be the advance of seed money. I'm trusting this friend's judgement because I have no agent anyway and he is a lawyer/opefator in publishing. This means I'll be able to hire nominal help while Lil is working so maybe I can find writing time. (LIl had a good idea. By turning the Yquem box broadside I can keep both legs up for quite a while. When I come back I'll try some foam for more comfort.) We have a friend who would have been ideal save that with her oldest child 13 she has decided to go for a master's degree. She is asking around among her peers to see if she can find a woman who can find some time between her Kids' going to and returning from school. Prospects slim but started. So, if this goes throught, I'll have to drop my plans for further promotions of published books. Can do.

There was another unexpected new development today, a call from Newsweek's John Lindsay. But I forgot the hitches that caused the tensions. The NY Metromedia arranged with the DC metromedia to send a driver for me. Only nobody thought to find out where I am or how to get here. It was exasperating trying to get through and in fact I did to this nice woman just as she was about to start filming Jim- at the end of the normal working day. She said not to worry, I'd hear momentarily, and then the switchboards of both stations closed down for the night! Without me hearing anything.

I finally roused guards at both stations and got both to looking and asking.

The one who returned the call and then called later is some NYC executive. The secretary to the DC general manager happened to be working an hour and a half late because she was just back from vacation and I got through to her. Finally the driver called me, I gave him the instructions and we are all set for the a.m. I can sleep or at least stay in bed until 7.

Lindsay was embarrassed over the Newsweek ~~k~~ mixing of the WC proposal so, he took it out on me by deciding not to like me and then inventing reasons. Some of it came back and I was silent. I think I got through to him at the Post Morte, press conference. At the end he got up and after expressing some of his own lingering hopes that all is not corrupt gave me an amazing endorsement, roughly that I had done for 11 years what the press should have and didn't and right or wrong the press and the country owes me much. Was I surprised! Then he was at the 12/11 one aimed at CBS' knees and again saw that when I say I have something, it is what I say it is and I do not exaggerate (in fact, anyway). So he called to find out how to get all the books and we had a long and rather friendly and open talk. He says he is going to read them. I asked him to be patient! And ask any questions he wants. Now this is a rather large chore to take on as a side deal with a full-time job and a family. So, I think maybe he's been told to take a look. If he hasn't been there will be one staffer with some knowledge other than fed by officials.

It isn't bad and it seems to be good. In all respects it represent change.

Except for my limitations IM quite encouraged. I'm not more discouraged by them but I am determined to get rest, etc., and this cuts the working day much. If most of the time I'm not aware that it bugs me, it must.

It was quite an exasperation to waste all the time today and have to worry about an opportunity before a New York audience, which is how- and on the same station- I was able to break through the silence on JFK, then rather dramatically. Once I got to thinking I was satisfied they did not want to use old fottage. Especially with JL on the same show. He is so straight, boyish, unassuming and informed it has to be good. The woman was quote excited over the filming. She phoned me. Giving me a tomorrow's schedule she'll never keep. I've put work in the attache case certain I'll have to do some!

And with all this going on I managed to take two walks today and outline my Thursday speech, numbering and cuing in new slides from PM. I have it on 6 3x5 cards, pretty brief. I hope I can speak it as briefly. But the lecture bureau has not returned last week's call and then letter and I don't know how who will recognize me at the airport if they come 30 miles for me or whether I have an afternoon seminar (rather take a sleeping pill not and rest) and how I'll get to the plane in the early a.m.

And sign another contract for a St. Pat's day speech at Hunter, another one the bureau did not book for me. I t will get me to NYC at a good time and pay the costs plus a fee. I haven't been able to get these klutzes to tell me what kind of tray to get for the slides. Boy do they work hard! So, I'm giving the college numbered slides and letting them worry about a tray. I've got them numbered for me so the order in which returned is no sweat.

To make the day perfect, the Roosevelt in NYC sent me a bill for what Argosy didn't pay for when they out me up there to discuss the ancillary rights to PM. And what did they bot pay for? The dinner the editor arranged for himself, his managing editor and his writer! For this he let me have 2 hours sleep and then ruined my phone checking for bugs!!!! so I had to get dressed and asked to be awakened by a ~~xxxx~~ personal ~~xxxx~~ knock.

C'est l'editores! Best,